

MEDICAREMATTERS

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Special Edition

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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

On July 30, 1965, with former President Harry S. Truman watching, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Medicare and Medicaid programs, ushering in what he called “the best medical protection available.”



Now, 40 years later, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Federal agency responsible for both programs, honors this very important milestone by implementing the most sweeping changes and improvements to the program since its inception. Medicare is moving into the 21st century by providing coverage for new preventive and health screening benefits, improving access to physician’s services, expanding health care options, and providing coverage for prescription drugs to all people with Medicare beginning on January 1, 2006.

CMS honored this milestone anniversary on Thursday, July 28 with a special program dedicated to “Celebrating Past, Present, and Future.” During the program, we looked back at key milestones of both the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and we looked forward to their future. Additionally, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt and Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., administrator of CMS, honored both programs and celebrated the hard work that everyone does on behalf of people with Medicare. Among those present was Pam College, representing United States Senator Barbara Mikulski, representatives from the American Red Cross, the



HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt and CMS Administrator, Dr. Mark McClellan, speak at Baltimore’s Anniversary Event

National Association of Home Care and Hospice, and Tom Scully, former CMS administrator. Twenty national partners from among the 60 that comprise the Medicare Today coalition also attended, including representatives of the National Community Pharmacists Association, the National Association for Mental Illness, the National Association for Community Health Centers, the Academy for Managed Care Pharmacy, and the Healthcare Leadership Council. Several hundred CMS staff, Social Security Administration staff, and other partners celebrated with Secretary Leavitt and Dr. McClellan.

REGION I

Region I hosted several partners at their Regional Office; among them were Hoan Bui, from Vietnamese-American Civic Association; Kate Doyle, from Massachusetts Alzheimer's Association; Sira Espinosa and Sylvia Saavedra-Keber, from Concilio Hispano; and Mark Doyle, from SSA. There were a total of 22 partners present.

On July 29th, Region I staff attended a partners' meeting at the South Burlington Senior Center in Vermont. Afterwards, more than 75 seniors and other invited guests gathered for the occasion. Some of the partners included Brian Dubie, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont; Judith Crawford, Vermont SHIP Director; Brian Cresta, US Department of Health and Human Services Region I Director; Neal Lunderville, representative of Governor Douglas; and John Barbour of the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging.

During the anniversary week, the Regional Office staff also hosted a Radio Tour throughout the region featuring 13 separate radio interviews with people with Medicare.



Vermont Lieutenant Governor Dubie serving cake with senior center residents



REGION II

Theodore O. Will, Chief Executive Officer of Island Peer Review Organization, Lake Success, NY hosted staff of Region II on July 28th. Partners present included Richard Herrick, President and CEO, NY State Health Facilities Association; Julio Infiesta, Assistant Regional Commissioner, Social Security Administration; Lisa Keehn, Director of Medicare Programs, Region II, Fidelis Care New York; Cindy Morris, RN, MPA, Assistant Director, Medicare Product, HIP Health Plan of New York; and Judy Clark, the HIICAP Coordinator for Nassau County.

The Puerto Rico Field Office also participated in the ceremonies with a number of partners, including representatives from their Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare fee-for-service contractors, and the Social Security Administration. The remaining staff in the Regional Office viewed the Central Office celebration.

REGION III

Region III hosted the Mobile Office Tour in Baltimore, MD on July 28th with Dr. McClellan and Secretary Leavitt. The host of the event was the Reverend Dr. Howard W. Hinson from the John Wesley United Methodist Church. Approximately 150 people attended, including several government officials. They included Anthony McCann, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Jean Roesser, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging; Christopher McCabe, Secretary, Maryland Department of Human Resources; and Carol Baker, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging, all of whom came to Central Office with the Mobile Office Tour.

The region also hosted a 40th anniversary event for people with Medicare at the Germantown Senior Center, Germantown, MD on July 13th. More than 100 seniors attended, and the event received extensive press coverage.

REGION IV

Region IV celebrated Medicare and Medicaid's 40th Anniversary in Oxford, Mississippi on July 18, 2005. The event was held at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Mississippi with more than 150 seniors, partners, and others attending. The celebration was hosted by a new partner, Dr. Tim Hall, Associate Provost for the University of Mississippi. Local dignitaries present included Richard Howorth, Mayor of Oxford; Joe White, District Representative for Congressman Roger Wicker office's; Ryan Brown, District Representative for Congressman Cochran's Office; Dr. Brian Amy, Director of the Mississippi State Health Department; Dr. Marian Dunn-Tutor, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Chris Downing, Regional Director for Department of Health and Human Services Region IV; and Amanda Robinson, Deputy Regional Director for CMS Region IV. Bette Wilson, another local dignitary, was honored for having the distinction of being the 2nd oldest person in the United States, and the oldest African American.

The Regional Office staff enjoyed watching the celebration at the Central Office with staff from SSA.

REGION V

The CMS Chicago Regional Office celebrated the 40th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid with two events on Thursday, July 28, 2005. The off-site event was conducted at Mayslake Village in Oak Brook, Illinois, which is a not-for-profit corporation that provides affordable independent living opportunities for low and moderate income seniors. Mayslake is one of the largest federally funded Senior Housing Developments in the county, with more than 600 residents. The Chicago HHS Regional Director, Doug O'Brien, and CMS Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, Candace Arnold, spoke at the event, with approximately 150 seniors in attendance. Brien Sheahan, a DuPage County Board Member, various Mayslake Village employees, and a representative from the Medicare Rights Center were also present.

The CMS Chicago Regional Office also hosted an on-site celebration planned in accordance with the satellite broadcast of Secretary Leavitt and Dr. McClellan. Approximately 75 people attended the celebration, including members from numerous Chicago HHS agencies and representatives from the Social Security Administration, the Illinois Senior Health Insurance Information Program, and the Suburban Area Agency on Aging. The CMS Acting Regional Administrator, David DuPre, and the HHS Regional Director, Doug O'Brien, kicked-off the event with remarks about the importance of HHS employees in securing the health of the nation.



Residents of Mayslake Village participating in Chicago's celebration.



Several seniors preparing to cut the anniversary cake

REGION VI

Local retiree Nieves Alvarez, was asked to cut the CMS 40th anniversary cake at a celebration held in downtown Dallas. Mrs. Alvarez, soon to be eligible for Medicare, was on hand to share in the 60's-focused festivities with CMS employees, area seniors, and advocacy partners. Mrs. Alvarez has expressed interest in partnering with CMS as a volunteer to educate people with Medicare in both English- and Spanish-speaking communities on prescription drug coverage options available to them.

Trini Garza, director of La Voz del Anciano, a Hispanic senior outreach group, and CMS Medicare Modernization Act Campaign team members Sandi Hall and Charna Pettaway, enjoyed the entertainment provided by the Dallas Tap Dazzlers, a locally-based senior dance troupe. The program's hosts, Roger Perez, CMS Deputy Regional Administrator, and Ed Vela, Acting Regional Commissioner for SSA in Dallas, offered key remarks on the joint partnership to enroll people with Medicare in the prescription drug coverage, and shared their vision on how the two agencies have and will work hand-in-hand for its diverse public. Mr. Perez highlighted statistics on Medicare and Medicaid's successes in preventive care, new programs, and health care quality. More than 400 guests attended the event.



Mrs. Alvarez cutting the anniversary cake

REGION VII

The Community Leaders Assisting the Insured of Missouri (CLAIM) Program, (Missouri SHIP), hosted a celebration honoring the 40 years of the Medicare and Medicaid program. The event was held at the SHIP's headquarters in Columbia, Missouri and more than 40 guests enjoyed refreshments and the telecast presentation by CMS officials in Baltimore. Guests included CLAIM staff and volunteers, representatives from the Missouri Department of Insurance, the Missouri SeniorRx program, Social Security, and State Representative Judy Baker of Columbia, Missouri. CMS staff was onsite to support the event.

The Kansas City Regional Office chose to have a small internal event that included CMS retirees and current staff. Staff of regional hospice associations, who were meeting with provider outreach staff, took a break from their meeting to join the celebration. Approximately 75 people enjoyed the telecast of the event and heard from past Kansas City Regional Administrator Gene Hyde, who reminisced about enrolling people in Medicare 40 years ago which included hiring staff who were given a week of training before going door to door to enroll beneficiaries. Attendees enjoyed looking through all the memorabilia and pictures of regional office staff through the years. Another highlight was the two cakes that were replicas of Harry and Bess Truman's Medicare cards.



Harry and Bess Truman's Medicare cards cakes



REGION VIII

Region VIII hosted more than 60 partners, and other invited guests. Partners included Bob Pierce, SHIP Director; Courtney Hoskins, Aging Services Program Specialist, Administration on Aging; Joe C. Nunez, Regional Director, Department of Health and Human Services; Nancy Berryhill, Deputy Regional Commissioner, Social Security Administration; Eileen Doherty, Executive Director Colorado Gerontological Society; Maureen Pierce, AARP of Colorado; and Jane Barnes, Manager of Senior Programs at St. Anthony Hospitals. They had extensive media coverage, including print, radio, and TV.

Region VIII also produced a radio tour, with interviews on stations in all six states in their region. Principal in this tour was Joe Nunez, Regional Director of HHS.

REGION IX

Region IX hosted a celebration that honored the significant contributions of CMS partners in the Los Angeles area. The ceremony focused on how Medicare has evolved since its inception in 1965 and the important role that partners have played in its success. There was also a discussion of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and joint efforts to maximize awareness of the new prescription drug benefit. Partners were recognized for the important role they play in providing quality services to people with Medicare and helping them make informed decisions about their health coverage, including prescription coverage. The event was held at the Hollywood Multipurpose Senior Center in Los Angeles, CA. Partners in attendance included Shirley Yee, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, Los Angeles; James Don, City of Los Angeles, Department of Aging; Susan Espiritu Maquindang, Filipino-American Service Group, Inc.; George Poon, Chinese Committee on Aging; and Cori Reifman, Office of the Patient Advocate, State of California.

REGION X

On Saturday, July 30, a 40th anniversary celebration for Medicare and Medicaid was held at the Good Shepherd Senior Center in Wallingford, just north of downtown Seattle. Seventy-five seniors and their families joined CMS staff and Medicare Today partners in cutting a cake and hearing about the Medicare Modernization Act during a two hour program. After the program, several CMS staff and Medicare Today partners worked one-on-one with individual families and small groups to explain the upcoming prescription drug coverage program.



Seniors enjoying anniversary cake